

# THE BIG

LAND  
SETTLEMENT

TARIFF  
REFORMS

CHEAP  
MONEY

FARM  
MACHINERY

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1917.14

# LIBERALISM <sup>A N D</sup> PROGRESS

The Liberal Party and the Martin Government  
Alive to Saskatchewan's Needs

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**Saskatchewan's Economic Problems**

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The Growth and Development of the Province and the  
Prosperity of its People are  
Wrapped Up in the Solution of these Questions

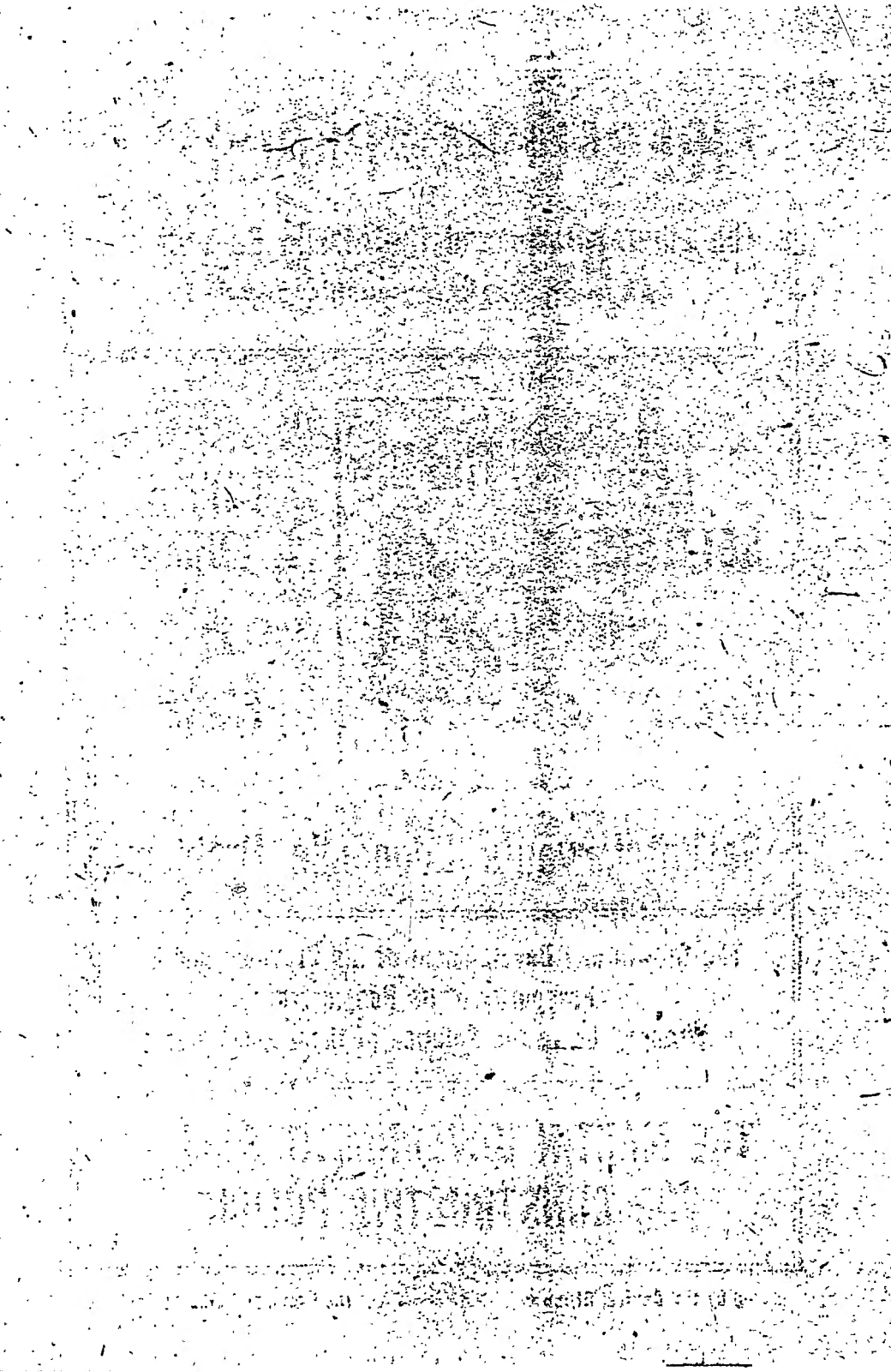
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**THE MARTIN GOVERNMENT STANDS  
FOR CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES**

Issued by the Central Office of



the Provincial Liberal Party



# THE BIG FOUR

## ELECTORS!

Are you really interested in the future of Saskatchewan? Are you anxious that the Province should have an opportunity to grow and develop? Do you wish prosperity to again appear in our midst? Have you any desire to better your own lot? Or, are you satisfied to sit idly by and fold your hands waiting for something to turn up?

These are questions which every thoughtful citizen should consider at this time. General elections as a rule do not come very often. When they do come, an earnest effort should always be made by the sincere voter to ascertain what the really big issues are. They are always present in every campaign, and it will be found that this campaign is no exception.

The purpose, then, of this brief pamphlet is to show you that the time has arrived when our people generally should take the keenest interest in the attitude of the two political parties towards certain problems the proper solution of which means so much to every man, woman and child in Saskatchewan. The future course of our development and the prosperity of all our people for years to come will depend upon the results of the present provincial election. Make no mistake about that. It is as certain as the daily rising of the sun. The decision of the people at the polls will determine whether we are to go forward or stand still. Which then is it to be—Progress or Stagnation? It must be one or the other, and the choice lies in your hands.

## THE BIG ISSUES.

Are there any really big issues at stake? If so, what are they? At times it is not to be wondered at that the average elector is confused. During a campaign many problems and policies are discussed. In addition, all sorts of attempts are made to play upon the feelings of voters. Special pleas are made and passions and prejudices are aroused. Personal attacks, insinuations and mud-slinging are indulged in. But above and beyond all these political fireworks there usually stands out very clearly certain questions which by the very nature of their importance become the real issues of the election.

The present election is no exception to this rule. Amidst the turmoil and strife of the campaign it will be found there are four large questions that demand special recognition, and every right thinking elector should fully consider these before he decides to cast a ballot against any Liberal candidate. These questions are:

1. The settlement of our vacant lands;
2. The carrying out of a policy whereby all farmers can secure the funds they require on satisfactory terms;
3. The relieving of our producers from unjust and burdensome market restrictions and tariff taxation;
4. The lessening of the cost of farm machinery and other things essential to grain and live stock production.

Stated in a more general way our big economic problems which must be solved if we do not wish to stagnate, are—a rapid increase in population, the placing of suitable settlers on lands now held by speculators, the furnishing of all producers with the capital and credit they require at lower rates of interest and for longer periods of time, the removal of trade barriers which prevent our people from selling their produce where they can get the highest price, the wiping out of tariff burdens that weigh so heavily on producer and consumer alike, and the adoption of policies that will enable our farmers to obtain their machinery and other necessities at greatly reduced prices.

These surely are big questions. They are "the questions" above all others that are at issue in this election. Conservative leaders and Conservative candidates may attempt to side-step them or ignore them altogether, but nevertheless they are there. They stare you squarely in the face. You cannot get away from them. It is for you to decide as to whether or not they are worth while paying attention to. Let us see.

# 1

## LAND SETTLEMENT.

In Saskatchewan we now have a population of about 650,000. There is plenty of room for millions more. We have millions of acres of land—the finest land in the world—lying idle. This land is a drag on the market. There are a hundred settlers for every buyer. Around all our villages, towns and cities there are thousands of acres

ready for the plough. These lands are adjacent to railway facilities. Schools, churches, roads, telephones are available—and yet these lands continue to lie there year in and year out, instead of being occupied and worked for the benefit of the occupants and the community at large.

This is the condition that exists. The facts speak for themselves. They are known to all. Recognising the situation and realising that this problem must be solved, the Martin Government has decided upon action. At the great Liberal Convention recently held at Moose Jaw the question was thrown open to discussion and progressive Liberalism, as it always does, rose to the occasion. After full consideration and debate the Liberal party unanimously decided, subject to the approval of the electors, to give to the Martin Government a mandate to proceed with a vigorous policy of land settlement. The plank in the Liberal platform dealing with the matter is as follows:

“Owing to the continued failure of the Federal immigration policy to secure appreciable results in the settlement of our vacant lands other than homesteads, we believe the time has arrived when the Province should inaugurate a vigorous land settlement scheme with the object of placing experienced farmers with families on vacant lands now owned by speculators. For this purpose the Government should obtain an inventory of all such lands, indicating their location, ownership, character, value and other necessary information. To provide for the settlement of these lands, the Province should from time to time purchase them as required for actual settlement purposes, and, with the necessary safeguards, resell the lands so purchased to bona fide settlers on long term payments at a low rate of interest.”

As the Dominion of Canada owns and controls our lands and natural resources, we have heretofore looked to the Federal authorities to deal with all matters of immigration and land settlement. Are you satisfied with what they have done during the past few years? To what extent have they grappled with the question of settling those lands that have passed away from the Crown and are now held by speculators? Millions have been spent on immigration, but with what results? There has been no plan, no policy, no effort whatsoever to solve this question. The whole situation has been allowed to drift, and as a consequence conditions have been created, which, if allowed to continue, will mean nothing but stagnation for years to come.

This then is one of the big issues of the campaign, and it is for you to decide whether or not the Martin Government will be empowered to tackle this question. In the past the Liberal Government of Saskatchewan has time and again been required to face the solution of large undertakings, and they have never failed. If given a man-

date by the people it may confidently be expected that they will handle this new big job in a way to satisfy the great majority of the electors.

Yes, we need people. We must have them. In the old days when our prairies were only sparsely settled, land sold freely at from \$1 to \$3 per acre. Today land is worth from \$15 to \$30 an acre. Why? Simply on account of the presence of population. And so with an ever-increasing flow of people our lands will continue to rise in value and our villages, towns and cities will grow and prosper. Our rural regions will also benefit enormously. With denser population we will have improved social conditions, better schools, increased railway facilities, rural mail delivery, lower taxation and a hundred and one other things that tend to make life on our farms more attractive and more profitable.

As for the people of our urban centres—our larger towns and cities—there is no issue in the election that should appeal to them so strongly. At present these centres are burdened with enormous debts, and they are staggering under high taxation. Their citizens naturally look forward to relief from some source or other. This relief can only come from the settlement and development of our vacant lands. Do they wish this work to be undertaken? On election day they will have an opportunity to decide.

In framing its platform, the Conservative party, under the leadership of Mr. Willoughby, had its eyes shut to the need for settlers. It failed to look round and grasp the importance of one of the really big things we need. It is apparently more concerned with criticisms and denunciations of the Government than with constructive policies which mean something real. Its ideal is to tear down rather than build up. On the other hand, Liberalism by its pronouncement on this question has indicated once more that it stands for progress. It believes that the time has arrived when we should boldly and vigorously adopt an aggressive land settlement policy. And it is confident that the Martin Government can be safely entrusted with the task.

## 2

### FARM LOANS AND CREDIT.

The settlement of our lands, while of primary importance, is not everything. We might succeed in getting thousands of good settlers, but unless we surround them with facilities and conditions that will

enable them to increase production and reap the fruits of their labours they will not be a contented, prosperous people, and as a consequence the Province as a whole might be no better off.

In the past, one of the severest handicaps under which our farming population as a whole has suffered is that relating to the securing of the necessary moneys to increase their holdings, to add to their stock and plant, to provide necessary fencing, buildings and other improvements and to carry on their seasonal operations. Saskatchewan has been like all other pioneer countries in this regard. Money is scarce, rates of interest are high, and the terms upon which money can be secured are such as to bear heavily on the borrower. As a direct result, the producer is hampered in his operations, and he is weighted down with burdens that eventually make him a discontented citizen to the detriment of the whole community.

The Liberal Government as far back as 1913 recognised that action had to be taken to relieve the farmer of this handicap to the extent that the Province had power to deal with it. An Act was consequently passed providing a means whereby loans could be made to farmers on the security of their lands at low rates of interest and on long terms for repayment. This Act was not brought into operation on account of the disturbance of the money markets as a result of the Balkan wars and the present European war.

Quite recently the Martin Government has again had the whole subject under careful consideration, with the result that at the recent session of the Legislature a new measure was passed called The Saskatchewan Farm Loans Act. In its broad principles the Act is similar to that passed in 1913. Its purpose is to provide a means whereby the farmers of Saskatchewan—those who are here as well as those who may come—may be enabled through the direct assistance of the Government to secure their farm loans on the most favourable terms.

The Act will be administered for the Government by a Board of three, to be known as The Saskatchewan Farm Loan Board. The Government will furnish this board with the moneys it requires for all applications that are approved. Money will be loaned only to farmers on the security of their land. The rate of interest charged will be as low as it is possible for the Government to make it. Everything will be done that can be done to reduce all costs and expenses. Loans will all be made repayable in 30 years with the right to pay off the whole or any part of the loan at any time. In fact, briefly, the main purpose of this progressive legislation is to create a province-wide plan whereby all our farmers may be enabled to secure the long term credit they need under terms and conditions that will bear on them as lightly as possible.

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This measure will not come into active operation until after election day. The Government is desirous that it should be kept out of politics. If it is to succeed, the whole scheme must be carried out on a purely business basis. Every application for a loan must be considered on its merits and every precaution must be observed to see that the fullest security is taken in all cases.

The question, then, which must be decided by every elector is as to whether or not he thinks it desirable that the Martin Government should be continued in office to carry on this work. In the past the Liberal Government by means of wise laws and proper administration thereof created the conditions which resulted in the building up of The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, one of the most successful undertakings of the kind to be found anywhere in the world. The operation of this Elevator Company has necessitated a capital expenditure of only some two millions of dollars, whereas the operation of the Farm Loan Board will in a few short years demand a provincial outlay of a good many times this amount. As a matter of fact, it is certain that this provincial loaning scheme will grow into our largest provincial undertaking. This being the case, is it not doubly necessary that those who are to be entrusted with the carrying out of this law should be tried and experienced, as the present Liberal Government is? This is a question that can be decided only by the electors themselves.

Having thus disposed of the question of long term credit, there still remains the question of short term or seasonal credit—the class of credit or loans that the farmer usually secures from one of our chartered banks.

This is as big a problem as the other—probably bigger. Thousands of our farmers have had their experience, and they know what it means. Ask them if they are satisfied with conditions as they exist. While we have an excellent banking system the producers of the prairie regions are more and more convinced that our ordinary chartered banks do not fit into and serve the real needs of our agricultural communities. These banks are built up, organised and administered to satisfy the requirements of our commercial and manufacturing institutions. Those who control and manage their policies are too far removed from the atmosphere of the farm. They do not always comprehend local conditions and requirements, and in numerous instances local managers are given but little authority to exercise their own judgment. At all events, there is a widespread feeling throughout the entire Province that something must be done to remedy the situation.

This sentiment was given voice to at the Moose Jaw Liberal Convention. After fully debating the question, it was decided that as

the Dominion Parliament alone has jurisdiction over banks and banking, all that could be done now was to make a demand on the Federal authorities for the necessary changes in The Bank Act to enable the establishment of institutions that would better serve our agricultural needs in so far as short loans are concerned.

The Liberal party, therefore, included in its now famous Bill of Rights the following declaration:

"Such changes in the banking system of Canada as will permit of the establishment of local agricultural banks in close touch with local conditions and with the needs of the farming industry."

Liberalism in Saskatchewan having taken its stand on this question, it will now be the duty of every Liberal member from the Province at Ottawa to bring this important question to the attention of the Federal authorities.

# 3

## TARIFF REFORMS.

So far we have considered but two of our big economic problems, namely, the settlement of our lands and the furnishing of our settlers with the necessary money to enable them to carry on their operations. One might think that if these questions were solved satisfactorily all would be well. This, however, is far from being true. Throughout the whole of Western Canada, and particularly in Saskatchewan our farmers are compelled to carry tariff burdens and to struggle against market restrictions that enormously reduce their profits and force them to pay tribute to the commercial and industrial Big Interests of Eastern Canada.

In this pamphlet it is unnecessary to attempt to tell the whole story. It is known to every farmer who has given any thought to the subject. Year in and year out our farmers' gatherings have kept up the struggle for freedom. Almost annually delegations have journeyed to Ottawa seeking relief. The Canadian Council of Agriculture representing all the farmers of Canada have raised their voice in loud protest against high protection and all its evils. And recently the Liberals of Saskatchewan spoke with no uncertain sound on this vital question.

In order that the reader may clearly understand where the Liberals of this Province stand on this important issue, it is thought

advisable to set out in full the declaration of the party as made at the Moose Jaw convention. This declaration was:

"Free access for the grain products of Saskatchewan to the markets of the United States, and of all other countries willing to grant such free entry.

"The admission into Canada, free of customs duties, of farm machinery and all things essential to the raising of grain and live stock products.

"A general lowering of the customs duties on all necessities of life.

"The immediate reduction of the customs duties on all goods imported from Great Britain to one-half of the rates charged under the general tariff, and a policy of further gradual reduction with a view to the elimination of all trade restrictions within the Empire.

"New outlets for our farm products and especially a speedy completion of the Hudson Bay Railway, owned and operated by the government of Canada, and that provision be made for the operation of suitable steamers to be run between the Bay and Great Britain."

The issue between the Liberals and Conservatives of Saskatchewan is so well known that it is quite unnecessary to dwell at any length upon details. The Conservative party stands for the protection of the manufacturers of Eastern Canada. They are opposed to free agricultural implements. They object to our farmers being permitted to purchase their machinery and plant where they can get it cheapest. Besides, they defeated reciprocity. They claimed we should have no truck or trade with the Yankees. They accused Liberals of being disloyal because they desired to obtain the American market for our producers. In effect, they said we will not permit our farmers to sell their produce where they can get the best price. They took the ground that the western farmer should be restricted in his selling to the home market and the British market. Conservatives in Saskatchewan were just as insistent in maintaining these conditions as the Manufacturers' Associations in Eastern Canada.

Quite recently, however, the Conservative party of Canada has had its eyes opened a little—just a little. They have heard the continued ramblings of discontent. They have learned that the West will never be satisfied till relief is obtained from these market restrictions and tariff burdens. They know the stand taken by the Liberal party, the Canadian Council of Agriculture and the farmers' organisations on this issue. They have at long last realised that if they are to secure any support at all in the prairie provinces they must give heed to the just demands of our producers. As a consequence

they have climbed down on the question of Free Wheat and Free Flour. They hope by this single concession to appease our producers. They think that by having done this they will be enabled to ride into power for another five year term. Our farmers, however, know that Free Wheat is only one of the many issues at stake. What about our oats and barley and flax? What about free implements? What about a general lowering of the tariff on all the necessities of life? What about further reduction under the British Preference?

No, our tariff fight is not over. It has only begun. It will never be settled satisfactorily till a government is in power at Ottawa that is in favour of doing something to help our producers and consumers in a large way. We cannot expect this from the Conservative party. They are tied hand and foot to the Big Interests of the East. This is true not only of Eastern Conservative leaders, but of Western leaders as well. It is just as true of Mr. Willoughby and his candidates as it is of Conservatives elected in Toronto or any other eastern city. Conservatives in Saskatchewan may pretend they would like to see something done, they may preach independence of action so far as these matters are concerned, but those local Conservatives who one and all deserted the farmers of Western Canada on the Reciprocity Issue in 1911 cannot be depended on. They are always true Conservatives and high protectionists first, last and all the time. Their party means more to them than the true welfare of the people.

This then is the third big issue before our people. Nothing would please the manufacturers of Eastern Canada better than to rout Liberalism in Saskatchewan. It would be a new lease of life to them. If by hook or crook they can succeed in defeating the Liberal Government in our Province, the result would be acclaimed throughout the whole Dominion as a victory for the protection system. They would claim that the tariff issue was the most important issue in our elections, and they would hold that the Saskatchewan farmer is satisfied with conditions as they now exist. On the other hand, if the Liberal party wins out—as win it will—our people will once more serve notice on the powers that be that the fight is still on and that it will be kept up till the last ditch is reached. As Liberals we hold that the stand we take is right and that we must continue the struggle for freedom until we secure relief from all those burdens which are retarding our growth, our production and the prosperity of our people.

The issue is before you. Which shall it be—tariff reform and progress or a continuation of unjust tariff burdens and stagnation?

# 4

## FARM MACHINERY.

The question of the cost of farm machinery is looming large on the horizon of practical politics. Year in and year out the problem is becoming more acute. It is now regarded as one of our large economic questions that demands the very best consideration that can be given to it by our Government.

What is the situation? Stated briefly, we are a producing people. Our greatest industry is agriculture. Our farmers carry on their operations in a large way. Agriculture is becoming more and more scientific. All the farmer's important work to be conducted economically demands the use of machinery—ploughs, harrows of various kinds, packers, seed drills, binders, threshers, tractors, etc., etc. Every farm in the country must be stocked with all kinds of machinery if the farmer is to succeed at all. This represents an investment of many hundreds, and in many cases of thousands of dollars. And as most of this machinery must be constantly replaced, the cost thereof is a heavy drain upon the farmer's income.

The Liberal party holds that the farmer should be placed in a position whereby he can buy this machinery in the cheapest market. We believe that every farmer has an absolute right to get his equipment or plant at the lowest possible cost. We claim that he should not be forced by high tariff to purchase his requirements at an unreasonable price. In the case of all kinds of machinery made in the United States and not made in Canada, the Liberal party demands that our farmers should be allowed to secure this machinery without paying hundreds of dollars in duty.

This, however, is only one side of the question. Even if all duties were removed, there is another side to the problem that demands attention. There is a widespread feeling throughout the Province that apart altogether from the question of customs duties the price of machinery is too high. It is held that the spread between the cost of manufacture and the sale price is too great. Then again, it is known that certain classes of machinery are sold at a much higher price in Western Canada than the same goods are sold for elsewhere.

The whole problem is complicated and involved, but nevertheless, it is one that must be inquired into. The question was up for consideration at the Provincial Liberal gathering at Moose Jaw, and eventually it was decided to place a plank in the Liberal platform

dealing with the matter. All those who took part in the discussion held that we did not have sufficient definite information to deal with the problem in a concrete practical way. It was for this reason that the Liberal party finally agreed unanimously in favour of an inquiry to get at the facts upon which legislative action might afterwards be based. The declaration of policy adopted by the Liberal convention was as follows:

"As the present high price of farm machinery is a large factor in the cost of production, and as the price to the Saskatchewan farmer is higher than in many other countries for similar machinery, we believe that steps should be taken by the Provincial Government to inquire into this problem in order that knowledge may be obtained of the different factors which constitute the price and the means, if any, whereby reduction may be effected. This inquiry should embrace a study of cost of manufacture, the effect of the tariff, the cost of transportation, distribution and collection and all other matters which enter into the question."

If returned to power armed with this authority it will be the duty of the Martin Government at the next session of the Legislature to make whatever provision is necessary to provide for a complete and exhaustive investigation of all the factors that enter into the cost of farm machinery, the object being to find out accurately and definitely all the contributing causes. As a result of this inquiry it is to be hoped that steps can be taken that will go a long way towards reducing the present high prices of all kinds of farm implements. If this can be done, and it is believed it can, it will mean a saving of millions of dollars to our people. Surely this is a question which at this time is deserving of the very best consideration on the part of every elector in the Province. It is the fourth and last of our large economic questions that must be tackled and solved if our producers are to be placed in a position where they can reap the full benefits of their labour.

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## CONCLUSION.

Every elector who reads this pamphlet cannot help but be convinced that in this election the people of Saskatchewan as a whole are facing real issues—big questions, the proper solution of which go to the very root of our growth and prosperity. Surely we have more to do than waste our time over the small bickerings of petty politicians. A great deal of time is bound to be wasted in discussing minor matters and in placing before the electors all sorts of side issues that are of very little importance. Attempts will be made to

arouse the feelings of the people and to play on their prejudices, and even their passions—but in the midst of it all the problems discussed in this pamphlet will remain. They are those confronting us. They must be grappled with.

The question then for the elector to decide is as to whether or not the Martin Government can be depended upon to undertake this work. The task is so great and of such paramount importance that every elector should think twice before deciding to entrust the job to a political party or a political leader who heretofore have failed absolutely, as indicated by their public utterances, to realise the real issues that confront us as a people.

The Liberal party has always had great faith in the mass of public opinion. It always stands prepared to trust the people, and in the case of the present election Liberalism in Saskatchewan is confident that when election day rolls round and the electors go to the polls to mark their ballots the great majority of them will vote for Martin candidates, thus making certain the continuation of an administration that has been regarded everywhere as the most progressive in Canada.

**VOTE FOR**  
**MARTIN**

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**Candidates**

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